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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 12 February 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to forward a copy of the letter dated 1 February 2008 addressed to you from the President of the Peruvian Congress, Dr. Luis Gonzáles Posada (see annex), transmitting to you the Declaration entitled "Solidarity with Colombia", issued this month by the Congress of Peru. It expresses a clear demand made by the Peruvian legislature aimed at the liberation of all persons who have been kidnapped by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the National Liberation Army (ELN) and other criminal groups. This Declaration includes also a firm condemnation of such kidnappings as terrorist acts.

I would greatly appreciate it if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 108.

(*Signed*) Luis Enrique **Chávez**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 12 February 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Spanish]

I have the pleasure to transmit to you herewith a Declaration entitled "Solidarity with Colombia", which was endorsed by legislators representing all accredited political parties in the Congress of the Republic of Peru (see appendix).

This Declaration conveys our demand for the immediate and unconditional release of all persons who have been kidnapped by the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN) and other criminal groups.

Kidnapping is a crime against humanity, as established in various international instruments. It affects individuals' right to life, liberty, dignity and physical and psychological integrity and has a severe impact on their families and on society as a whole.

Accordingly, the Declaration, while asking the legislative bodies of the hemisphere and the Organization of American States to show their solidarity in calling for the release of kidnapped persons, refers to the perpetrators of these acts and their accomplices as terrorists.

I should be grateful if you would have the Declaration circulated as an official document for attention and any related action by the countries members of your Organization.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Luis **Gonzáles Posada Eyzaguirre**
President
Congress of the Republic

Appendix

[Original: Spanish]

Solidarity with Colombia

Whereas the promotion and protection of the individual's right to life, liberty, dignity and physical and psychological integrity are supreme values of the State and society;

Whereas kidnapping is a crime against humanity that violates the basic rights of its victims and has a severe impact on their families and on society as a whole;

Whereas this criminal offence is in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), as well as the principles contained in the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and in a number of international human rights instruments, including the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the American Convention on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, all of which have been signed by Peru;

Whereas kidnapping or any form of arbitrary deprivation of liberty is an international crime under the provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, giving rise in all States to the obligation to cooperate in investigating and punishing those responsible for this offence;

Whereas the sister Republic of Colombia recorded, between 1996 and 2007, a total of 23,356 kidnappings targeting men, women, older persons and children, both civilian and military, of which 12,168 cases were perpetrated by the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) and the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN);

Whereas, out of the total number of persons kidnapped by FARC and ELN, 492 have died during their captivity or have been killed by these terrorist groups and 1,184 are still illegally deprived of their liberty, surviving in cruel, inhuman and degrading conditions and in a situation of imminent danger to their lives;

Whereas, in view of the seriousness of these circumstances, it is necessary for the legislative bodies of the Americas to publicly repudiate these criminal acts and to lead a joint effort to secure the immediate and unconditional release of all persons who have been kidnapped in Colombia;

The Congress of the Republic of Peru, for these reasons,

Agrees to:

1. Express its solidarity with all victims of kidnapping and of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment perpetrated by FARC, ELN and other criminal groups, as well as with their families and the sister Republic of Colombia;

2. Declare its satisfaction at the recent release of Clara Rojas and Consuelo González, while at the same time reaffirming its demand for the total, immediate and unconditional release of all persons kidnapped by FARC, ELN and other criminal groups;

3. Express the strongest condemnation of those who attempt to impose an ideology by means of violence and terrorism, thereby violating human rights and democratic principles;

4. Propose that the legislative bodies of the Americas join in an effort of solidarity aimed at the immediate and unconditional release of all kidnapped persons, as well as an initiative to express rejection and condemnation of the perpetrators and planners of kidnappings and other crimes against human liberty, life and integrity;

5. Support the peaceful march to express worldwide repudiation of FARC and of kidnapping, which will be held on 4 February 2008 in more than 60 cities in Colombia and the world;

6. Request OAS to convene a special meeting on the issue of kidnapping to enable the countries of the inter-American system to adopt urgent measures leading to the immediate and unconditional release of kidnapped persons, to which end it is essential to reaffirm that the perpetrators of this crime and their accomplices are categorized as terrorists;

7. Call upon the specialized bodies of the United Nations and OAS to strengthen their support for peace initiatives, in the framework of the international obligations undertaken by Colombia and reflected in the laws of that country. In addition, these bodies are requested to consider the possibility of appointing a follow-up commission to support initiatives taken by the Government of Colombia to secure the release of kidnapped persons;

8. Express to the Government of the Republic of Colombia and to its Congress the support of Peru's parliamentary representatives for the efforts they are making to combat violence and free the individuals who are still in captivity.

(*Signed*) Luis **Gonzáles Posada Eyzaguirre**
President
Congress of the Republic